



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 25 January 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
25 JANUARY 1968

1. North Korea

Pyongyang is still defiant on the release of the Pueblo and its crew.

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Four Soviet naval ships are operating in the vicinity of the Enterprise and its escorts. These units appear to be monitoring the activity of the US task force, but have shown no hostile intent. Soviet ships regularly operate in this area.

2. South Vietnam

Some members of the lower House may be planning to dabble in peace efforts.

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3. Laos

Over a week after the debacle at Nam Bac, the government still cannot account for more than half of the troops deployed there. Large stocks of heavy weapons, ammunition, and other equipment were also lost. We do not believe that the Communists intend to drive far south from Nam Bac, but they are stepping up their annual dry-season campaign against government guerrilla bases in the northeast.

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4. Nonproliferation
Treaty

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5. West Germany

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[REDACTED]

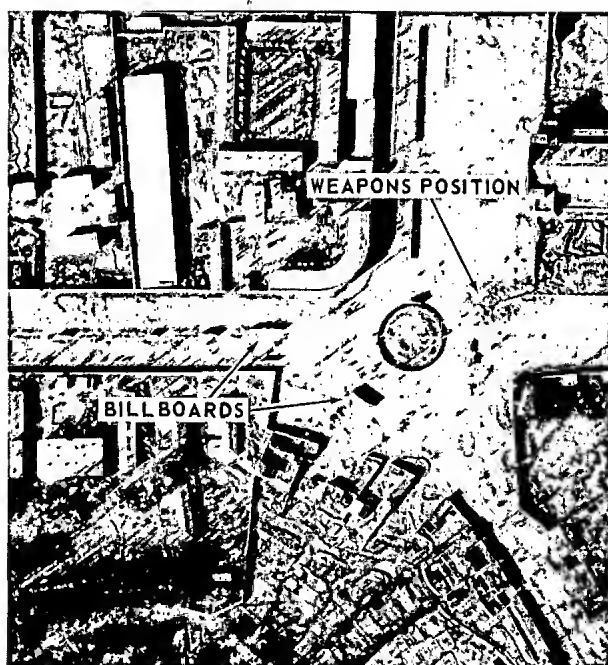
some Foreign Ministry officials are taken with the idea of bilateral talks with the Soviets on Bonn's role in West Berlin. On Tuesday, State Secretary Carstens assured an embassy officer that the government had made no decision on this matter. A half hour later, Carstens phoned to say that Kiesinger had just said "there was nothing to worry about."

6. Jordan

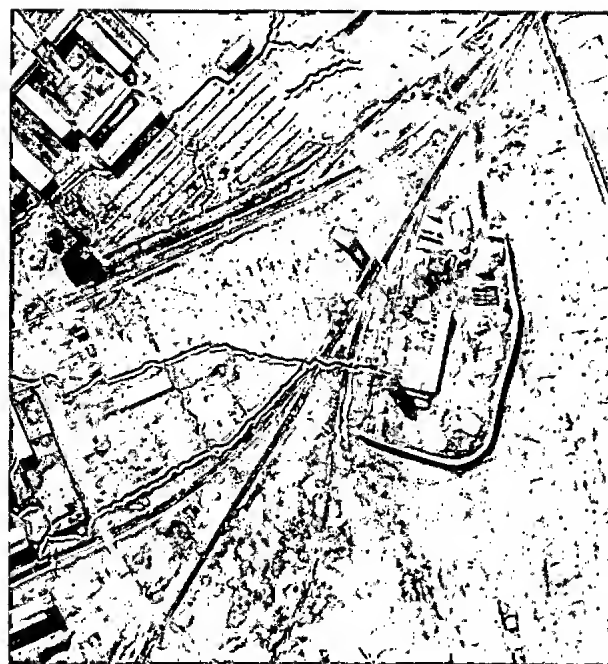
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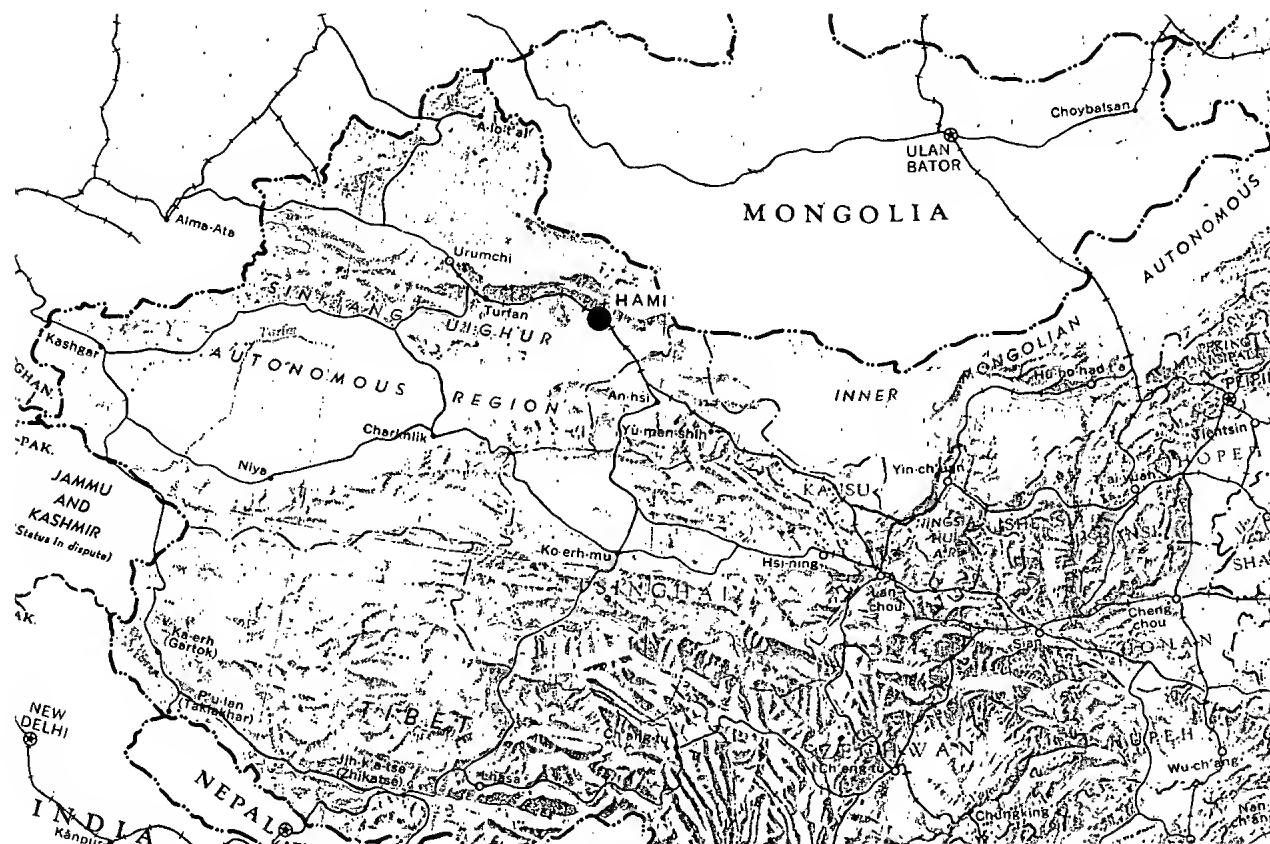
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BILLBOARDS AND WEAPONS POSITION.



TRENCHES DUG ACROSS RAIL SPURS.



LOCATION MAP.

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7. Communist China

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Satellite photog-
raphy of last December provides glimpses
of the trouble.

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There are large crowds, billboards, and weapons positions along the streets, with what look like other weapons positions on rooftops. A number of administration buildings are surrounded by trench networks, and several rail spurs leading to local industries are intersected by trenches. The rail yard itself is heavily congested.

None of this activity was seen on photography of last June. Recent evidence indicates that the trouble is not over yet.

8. France

De Gaulle told New York Times correspondent Cyrus Sulzberger on Monday that "there was no question" of lifting the embargo on Mirage aircraft for Israel at this time. De Gaulle asserted that if these planes were sent to Israel, they would be used "to destroy Damascus."

The same day Couve de Murville told Ambassador Bohlen the decision on the Mirages for Israel would be "further postponed," but some would be sold to Iraq "on commercial terms." To the observation that this would not make the French very popular in Israel, Couve shrugged his shoulders. He later admitted that French policy was "slightly pro-Arab."

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De Gaulle also told Sulzberger that the French Canadians were the most oppressed minority in the world "with the exception of the Arabs in Israel and the Tibetans in China."

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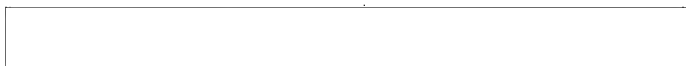
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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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25 January 1968

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
for the President's Eyes Only

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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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Kosygin to Hanoi?: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Premier Kosygin will go on to Hanoi after his visit to New Delhi later this week. Such a visit could be timed to coincide with the Tet bombing pause. The last high-level Soviet visit to Hanoi was in January 1966, when Politburo member Shelepin led a delegation to North Vietnam during the 37-day pause. The current US-Korean trouble could alter any plans Kosygin might have.

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Hanoi Holds the Line: North Vietnam seems unwilling to go any further in publicly elaborating on its position concerning talks with the US. After strongly denouncing President Johnson's restatement of the San Antonio formula in his State of the Union message, North Vietnamese media generally have concentrated on presenting Hanoi's usual hard-line treatment of the war and ignored the issue of negotiations.

On 22 January, Mai Van Bo, who last week publicly stressed the positive aspects of Hanoi's position, cancelled a scheduled interview because he had "said everything he had to say up to now." [REDACTED]

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Hanoi still has not endorsed Mai Van Bo's off-the-record interview with a French journalist on 17 January. His remarks at that time may have exceeded the bounds of what Hanoi wants said in public

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL
ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Nothing of significance to report.

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